

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter and are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 47-57, and 63-66 are pending in the application.

Claims 37-41, 43, 47-57, and 63-66 have been rejected.

Claims 38-41, 47-57, and 63-66 are kept unchanged.

Claims 42, 44-46, 58-62, and 67-74 have been canceled.

Claim 37 has been amended.

Claims 38, 40, 41, 47-57, and 63-66 are kept unchanged.

Claim 39 has been canceled.

The rejection of claims 37, 38, 40, 41, 47, 64 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Awane et al. (English translation to Japanese Application 61-7374), is respectfully traversed and is addressed in light of the comments below.

Awane et al. teach a non-slip material which may be stuck to a variety of surfaces (tires, shoes) in order to provide same good anti slip properties (please see page 1, lines 22-27 and page 4, lines 7-12). That non-slip material comprises an adhesive strip and a rubber strip. The rubber strip comprises reinforcing fillers comprising particules having a diameter of at most 1 $\mu$ m (page 14, lines 14-21). The suitable reinforcing fillers suitable are carbon black, silica, clays, calcium carbonate (page 5, lines 7-12). The rubber strip may also comprise mineral or organic short fibers having a length of

between 10 $\mu$ m and 3 $\mu$ m and a ratio length/diameter of between 10 and 500 (page 5, lines 13-16).

Thus, it is possible to calculate the diameter of the fibers taught by Awane in order to compare the same with the diameters of the fibers of the instant invention. According to Awane, the ratio  $R = \text{length/diameter}$  being between 10 and 500 and the length being between 10  $\mu$ m and 3 mm, the diameter is between 20 nm and 300  $\mu$ m.

Therefore, Awane et al. do not describe nor even suggest microfibrils having a mean diameter of between 0.5 and 10nm and a form factor which is defined as the ratio between the mean length of the microfibrils and its mean diameter such that their mean length always remains less than 30  $\mu$ m.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 37, 38, 40, 41, 47, 64 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Awane et al. (English translation to Japanese Application 61-7374).

The rejection of claims 37-41, 47-50, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kaliski (U.S. Patent # 5,312,484), in view of Kaliski (U.S. Patent 5,240,561), is respectfully traversed and is addressed in light of the comments below.

The microgels of Kaliski (U.S. Patent # 5,312,484) may contain cellulose microfibrils (column 4, line 20) presenting a length of between 1 and 10  $\mu$ m (column 39, lines 3-5).

Those microfibrils are obtained by the process taught by Kaliski (U.S. Patent 5,240,561) in column 38 lines 42-46.

However, the microfibrils taught and obtained by Kaliski (U.S. Patent 5,240,561) present a form factor 10 to 1000 times bigger than the one of fiber fines (please see column 34, lines 1 and 9-14). However, Kaliski (U.S. Patent 5,240,561) does not explicitly set forth a form factor but only mentions an order of magnitude, i.e. 10 to 1000 bigger than fiber fines. Thus, in the absence of precise data, it is impossible to calculate a particular form factor. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the assertion of the Examiner (on paragraph 13 of the Official Letter) relative to the fibers of Kaliski (U.S. Patent 5,240,561) having a form factor between 10 and 1000, is not exactly what says column 34, lines 9-14 of that patent. Thus, Applicant still maintains that the Kaliski patents cannot describe nor make obvious a combination in dry form, comprising microfibrils with a mean diameter of between 0.5 nm and 10 nm and a form factor which is defined as the ratio between the mean length of the microfibrils and its mean diameter such that their mean length always remains less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ . For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 37-41, 47-50, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kaliski (U.S. Patent # 5,312,484), in view of Kaliski (U.S. Patent 5,240,561).

The rejection of claim 43, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over unpatentable over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above and further in view of Myers (U.S. Patent # 4,617,353), is respectfully traversed and is addressed in light of the comments below.

Myers (U.S. Patent # 4,617,353) teaches a process of converting an insulating matrix polymer to a conductive substrate. In that connection, Myers focuses on synthetic polymers and do not cite one single natural product from column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 68. Therefore the man skill in the art of cellulose fibers is not at all motivated to combine Myers with the two Kaliski patents. Moreover, even if the three patents are combined, it is not possible to retrieve a combination in dry form, comprising microfibrils with a mean diameter of between 0.5 nm and 10 nm, having the claimed form factor, and at least one mineral particle.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 43, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above and further in view of Myers (U.S. Patent # 4,617,353).

The rejection of claim 51, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above, and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent # 4,817,381), is respectfully traversed and is addressed in light of the comments below.

Chen (U.S. Patent # 5,817,381) teaches the influence of cristallinity of non-wood cellulose fibers on the properties of papers made from those fibers. What is claimed in the instant application is not a paper but a combination in dry form, of (cellulose) microfibrils and mineral particles. Furthermore, the combination of Chen with Gregory and the two Kaliski patents fails to teach that these microfibrils have to have a mean

diameter of between 0.5 nm and 10 nm and a form factor such that their mean length always remains less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 51, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable in view of over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above, and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent # 4,817,381).

The rejection of claim 52, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above, and further in view of Dinand (U.S. Patent # 5,964,983), is respectfully traversed and is addressed in light of the comments below.

Dinand et al. disclose microfibrillated cellulose containing 80% primary walls. However, as above explained for Meyers, what is claimed in the instant application is not a paper but a combination in dry form, of (cellulose) microfibrils and mineral particles. Furthermore, the combination of Dinand with Gregory and the two Kaliski patents fails to teach that the microfibrils have to have a mean diameter of between 0.5 nm and 10 nm and a form factor such that their mean length always remains less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 52, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above, and further in view of Dinand (U.S. Patent # 5,964,983).

The rejection of claim 53-55, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above and further in view of Herrick (U.S. Patent # 4,481,076), is respectfully traversed and is addressed in light of the comments below.

Herrick (U.S. Patent # 4,481,076) teach redispersible microfibrillated cellulose and their association with carbohydrates.

However, as above explained for Meyers and Dinand, what is claimed in the instant application is not a paper but a combination in dry form, of (cellulose) microfibrils and mineral particles. Furthermore, the combination of Herrick with Gregory and the two Kaliski patents fails to teach that the microfibrils have to have a mean diameter of between 0.5 nm and 10 nm and a form factor such that their mean length always remains less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 53-55, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kaliski, in view of Kaliski as set forth above and further in view of Herrick (U.S. Patent # 4,481,076).

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Serial number: 09/601,887

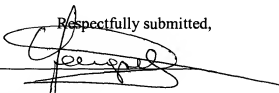
**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

In view of the preceding remarks, it is asserted that the patent application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any question concerning these remarks that would further advance prosecution of the claims to allowance, the examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned agent at (609) 860-4180. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

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RN98026final amend

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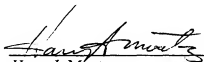
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**Expires: November 19, 2003**

  
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Harry I. Moatz  
Director of Enrollment and Discipline